

Indigenous Peoples and Agenda 2030
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Introduction

The SDGs are clearly a stronger framework than the MDGs for the pursuance of Indigenous peoples' human rights and well-being. For this, both States and Indigenous peoples are to be congratulated. Indigenous peoples participated dynamically in the process of preparation of the document and advocated strongly for the inclusion of their issues. Not only are Indigenous peoples specifically mentioned several times in the text of Agenda 2030, but the overall thrust of the document around some structural impediments and the emphasis on human rights, non-discrimination and inclusion as well as reduction of inequalities is a positive framework for Indigenous peoples. Agenda 2030 can be considered an agenda for human rights. One of its overarching goals is to "to realize the human rights of all". Many of the goals are framed in ways that reinforce the commitments most States have already undertaken under the ten core international human rights treaties.

In addition, most SDGs and many targets are directly relevant for Indigenous peoples, even if there is no explicit reference to Indigenous peoples. Last but not least, we note some of the basic philosophical approaches of Indigenous peoples underlying the document and alluding to other possible paradigms of development than the dominant one, which has proven unsustainable for the planet as well as unjust and feeding inequalities among States and within States. Yet, Agenda 2030 does not represent a paradigm shift in the area of development. Despite that, we have to welcome conceptual references to the possibility of another model including: the reference to improved modes of production and consumption¹, references to harmony with nature² and to Mother Earth³.

¹ Goal 8 "8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead".

Today, after the adoption of Agenda 2030, is the time for all to focus on the positive openings for a better world that the SDGs offer. Advocacy for implementation, monitoring and follow up by Indigenous peoples, UN bodies, civil society and of course States is crucial.

SDG implementation and monitoring should be guided by indigenous peoples' human rights, as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and multiple other human rights instruments. For proper monitoring, rights-related indicators and disaggregated data are indispensable.



This paper is organized in three parts:

- A. Reflections on the goals and targets adopted in the 2030 Agenda (pp. 3-8)
- B. Indicators for measuring progress for Indigenous peoples (pp. 8-10)
- C. Experiences of data collection with/for/on Indigenous peoples (pp. 10-17)

For the sake of brevity and the economy of this paper, conclusions and recommendations throughout the paper are marked in bold.

A. Reflections on the goals and targets adopted in the 2030 Agenda

- *What are the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals?*

MDGs did not include reference to Indigenous peoples. In 2005, thanks to advocacy by the UNPFII and some States, some reference was included in the General Assembly resolution that year to the need to respect Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and

² Preamble: "Prosperity We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature."

Declaration: paragraph 9

³ Paragraph 59 of Agenda 2030

to the need for the UN to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UNPFII devoted the special themes of two sessions (fourth and fifth in 2005 and 2006) to examining the MDGs and their relevance to Indigenous peoples and made significant recommendations on how the MDGs should be applied in order to not harm Indigenous peoples on the way, but instead improve Indigenous peoples' well-being⁴. The Permanent Forum also gave high profile to this debate by making comments to a preparatory report of the Secretary-General and by subsequently inviting to its debates high-level officials of UN agencies and also the Secretary General's Special Adviser on the MDGs, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who engaged in a public dialogue with the Permanent Forum.

Yet, it has by now been documented that, aside from rare exceptions, the implementation of the MDGs hardly included Indigenous peoples and their issues in processes, or in programs at national level. SPFII reviewed most relevant MDG country reports: 46 desk reviews of MDG Country reports, between the years 2006 and 2010. In total, only 26 out of the 46 MDG country reports made some reference to indigenous peoples, i.e. only 56.5% of all the reports reviewed. Those references, however, to indigenous peoples were hardly adequate, in fact, in most cases they were not. Moreover, there was hardly any evidence of any participation of Indigenous peoples on MDGs planning, implementation and evaluation processes.

Among conclusions and recommendations of the desk reviews, it was found that a common challenge facing countries in relation to the MDGs and Indigenous peoples appeared to be the relevance of addressing the development needs of indigenous peoples. In countries where indigenous peoples make up a small minority, it was perhaps tempting to marginalize them further when implementing development policies. The cultural and linguistic barriers that indigenous peoples face increase this risk, as contextualized and directed policies are often needed to realize the aims of the MDGs in relation to indigenous peoples. Given the inherent costs and difficulties of developing such programs as mother-tongue instruction for small demographics, there is the risk that Governments will opt for programs aimed at larger groups in order to improve their national level results.

In indigenous majority countries such as Bolivia, the need to squarely address indigenous issues is more obvious, for it would be nearly impossible to successfully reach the MDGs without addressing the needs of Indigenous peoples in such countries. For countries, however, where Indigenous peoples are numerical minorities, it is clear that further efforts were needed to mainstream indigenous issues and emphasize the importance of an equal share in the benefits of MDG-related development across all segments of the population, including indigenous peoples.

⁴ See reports of the UNPFII, E/C.19/2005/1 and E/C.19/2006/1

All the SPFII desk reviews over the years ⁵ have highlighted several important conclusions and recommendations. The following recommendations were made in the first desk review conducted in 2006 and they have been consistently raised since: a) Free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples should be sought in all development initiatives that involve them. b) Governments and the UN system should improve the collection and disaggregation of data regarding indigenous peoples. Improved disaggregation of data is indispensable to properly monitor progress towards MDG achievement in countries with indigenous populations.

SPFII also conducted desk reviews of Common Country Assessments/UN Development Assistance Frameworks (CCAs/UNDAFs) as well as UN Resident Coordinator reports. **These reviews revealed a tremendous participation gap for Indigenous peoples and an absence of their issues in the efforts for MDGs implementation.**

There are various explanations and lessons for these gaps, which can be taken into account as we turn attention to the SDGs implementation:

- a) **The lack of specific language on Indigenous peoples contributed to the invisibility of Indigenous peoples and their issues as well as to their non-participation in MDG processes of governments as well as of UN agencies. It would be no exaggeration to say that Indigenous peoples' participation was not even a question on the table for policy makers, with rare exceptions (eg Bolivia).**
- b) **The emphasis on national averages and the eagerness of national and international actors to show progress on MDGs at a national level, left Indigenous peoples' realities in the shadow. Data collection and disaggregation as per Indigenous peoples was basically absent.**
- c) **The absence of indicators specific to Indigenous peoples similarly contributed to the invisibility of Indigenous peoples and their issues.**

In the meantime, however, under the umbrella of the UNPFII, meticulous, specialized and methodical work has been done over a number of years by Permanent Forum members, Indigenous peoples and their organizations around the world⁶ in cooperation with UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, ILO) and experts to prepare indigenous-specific indicators that will capture Indigenous peoples' well-being, poverty and sustainability.

⁵ The desk reviews are posted on DESA/DSPD- SPFII website, www.un.org/indigenous, see under "library and documents".

⁶ Meetings were held and documentation prepared in connection with Central and South America and the Caribbean, the Arctic, North America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

This work forms a solid basis for proposing indicators now within the context of the SDGs⁷.

- *What are the priority goals for Indigenous peoples and the related targets for these goals in Agenda 2030?*

The analysis prepared by SPFII for this meeting⁸ describes well the goals and targets relevant to Indigenous peoples. I would venture say that all SDGs are relevant for Indigenous peoples' issues. And I have noted a number of additional paragraphs (additional to those mentioned in SPFII's paper) on the Preamble of the Agenda 2030 as well as in the rest of the document that I see as quite relevant.

These additions include but are not limited to: In the *Declaration* part: paragraphs, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 40, 44, 47, 48, 57, 59. Under *Goal 1* relevant references are also in 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5. and 1b. Under *Goal 2* relevant are also 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5. Under *Goal 3*, relevant are also 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8 and 3.9. Under *Goal 4*, relevant are also 4.1, 4.6 and 4.7. Under *Goal 5*, relevant are also 5.2 and 5.5. Under *Goal 6*, relevant are also 6.3, 6.6 6.a and 6.b. Under *Goal 8*, relevant are also 8.4 and 8.9. Under *Goal 9*, relevant are also 9.3 and 9.c. Under *Goal 10*, relevant are also 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.b. Under *Goal 11*, relevant is also 11.4. Under *Goal 12*, relevant are also 12.2, 12.8 and 12.b. Under *Goal 15*, relevant are also 15.1, 15.6 and 15.9. Under *Goal 16*, relevant are also 16.3, 16.7, 16.9, 16.b. And under *Goal 17*, relevant is 17.18.

In other words, it is gratifying to find that, even where Indigenous peoples are not explicitly mentioned, other references are of direct relevance to their human rights and well-being, including references to ethnicity, culture and cultural diversity, women, vulnerable groups (although this term is critiqued), data collection and of course human rights.

⁷ A lot of this material has been compiled in a publication of Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), [Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples: A Resource Book](#), Baguio City, Philippines, 2008 (see also the website of Tebtebba, www.tebtebba.org). See also the UNPFII reports for recommendations on indicators over a number of years, as well as reports of members of the Permanent Forum submitted to various sessions (website of SPFII, www.un.org/indigenous).

⁸ SPFII's Analysis of "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" for indigenous peoples, 11 September 2015, distributed in preparation of the Expert Meeting on the SDGs, October 2015.

- *How might we be able to draw upon the experiences of Indigenous peoples to achieve goals and targets (e.g. in areas of climate change, sustainable management of forests, etc.)*

Indigenous peoples have been active, since the early 1990s, in the area of the environment, having established a visible presence at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development and its high-level follow up processes. Similarly, Indigenous peoples engaged strongly in the climate change debates, forestry management and international processes related to those areas of policy. This has resulted in institutional indigenous participation in various intergovernmental initiatives and bodies, including for the governance of UN-REDD, the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which brings in Indigenous peoples traditional knowledge, IFAD's Indigenous Peoples' Forum, and, outside the UN system, indigenous participation at the Arctic Council.

These experiences –and of course the substantive indigenous participation at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues itself-have proven useful and productive for Indigenous peoples, States and agencies alike. These experiences of structures for Indigenous peoples' participation can serve as good examples for the follow up of the SDGs implementation at UN level, which must have substantive participation of Indigenous peoples.

- *How can we ensure a human rights based approach (HRBA) to implementation of the 2030 Agenda?*

The 2030 Agenda already includes the elements of the HRBA, as developed over the years in the UN's practice. These are references in the text of the targets, even if we do not find them expressed all together neatly organized in one segment. Agenda 2030 is after all a long document which is the product of broad and long negotiations.

According to the Common Understanding of the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development adopted by the UN Development Group in 2003⁹:

*All programmes of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance should further the realisation of human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

⁹ See HRBA UN Portal: <http://hrbaportal.org/the-human-rights-based-approach-to-development-cooperation-towards-a-common-understanding-among-un-agencies#sthash.frQCkob8.dpuf>

*Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and in all phases of the programming process.

*Development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of ‘duty-bearers’ to meet their obligations and/or of ‘rights-holders’ to claim their rights. -

Among these human rights principles are: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; inter-dependence and inter-relatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. These principles are explained below.

**Universality and inalienability*: Human rights are universal and inalienable. All people everywhere in the world are entitled to them. The human person in whom they inhere cannot voluntarily give them up. Nor can others take them away from him or her. As stated in Article 1 of the UDHR, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.

* *Indivisibility*: Human rights are indivisible. Whether of a civil, cultural, economic, political or social nature, they are all inherent to the dignity of every human person. Consequently, they all have equal status as rights, and cannot be ranked, a priori, in a hierarchical order.

* *Inter-dependence and Inter-relatedness*. The realization of one right often depends, wholly or in part, upon the realization of others. For instance, realization of the right to health may depend, in certain circumstances, on realization of the right to education or of the right to information.

**Equality and Non-discrimination*: All individuals are equal as human beings and by virtue of the inherent dignity of each human person. All human beings are entitled to their human rights without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, ethnicity, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, disability, property, birth or other status as explained by the human rights treaty bodies.

**Participation and Inclusion*: Every person and all peoples are entitled to active, free and meaningful participation in, contribution to, and enjoyment of civil, economic, social, cultural and political development in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be realized.

**Accountability and Rule of Law*: States and other duty-bearers are answerable for the observance of human rights. In this regard, they have to comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in human rights instruments. Where they fail to do so, aggrieved

rights-holders are entitled to institute proceedings for appropriate redress before a competent court or other adjudicator in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by law.

All the above elements are found in the Agenda 2030 and they are directly relevant for Indigenous peoples. These elements, namely the components of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development (HRBA), form a fertile ground for the implementation of UNDRIP and SDGs processes.

B. Indicators for measuring progress for indigenous peoples

- *What are the priority goals and targets for development of corresponding indicators?*
- *What are the relevant draft global indicators for indigenous peoples? What are the opportunities, if any, for inclusion of relevant indicators in global agenda?*
- *What opportunities exist beyond the global indicator framework? Is it possible to draw from/modify already existing indicators or is it necessary to develop new indicators to measure progress for indigenous peoples?*
- *What considerations do we need to bear in mind when developing indicators (e.g. simple, timely, few in number, reliable, based on verifiable methodologies and statistical standards)?*

The lessons we drew from the MDGs experience regarding Indigenous peoples clearly show that indigenous-specific indicators are a critical entry point for the implementation of the SDGs and the inclusion of Indigenous peoples and their issues.

Given the rich work conducted in the past several years on indigenous-related indicators, as mentioned above, there are a few specific thematic areas of fundamental significance for Indigenous peoples' well-being and sustainability. Those few themes correspond to the normative framework of the UNDRIP, the Outcome Document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the policy framework advocated over the years by UNPFII and the goals of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples which has just ended. They are also supported by the studies, thematic reports and policy recommendations over the years of the UN Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

These themes have been captured in a number of recent papers, namely the paper by the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG), the paper by Fondo Indígena in collaboration with ECLAC and an expert paper prepared for this DESA meeting. Main themes identified as needing to be addressed by indicators are: a) disaggregation of data; b) lands, territories and resources, c) free, prior and informed consent, d) special targeted measures, e) access to justice and redress mechanisms, f) participation and representation in decision making and relevant bodies.

These key themes give rise to measurable, concrete indicators formulated to fit under the various priority goals and targets of Agenda 2030. Some are already agreed upon indicators, such as ILO and CBD's status and trends in traditional occupations. Some indigenous-specific indicators can ride on some already existing ones that disaggregate data by ethnicity, by adding reference to Indigenous peoples in those.

The major broad indicator that all emphasize for inclusion in the global SDGs indicator framework (relevant for targets 1.4 and 2.3, among others) is one regarding land as follows:

“Percentage of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities (IPLCs) with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by

- a. percentage with legally documented or recognized evidence of tenure, and
- b. percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected”

In conclusion, the analytical expert work has been done already over a protracted period of time. It is now the moment to identify the SDG-related processes where the formal integration of those indicators has to take place. The first such major meeting is at the end of this month, namely the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which will be held from 26 to 28 October in Bangkok, Thailand.

A strategic question is, in what other contexts than the formal SDG ones should SDG-related indicators be pursued.

Based on long experiences, there is agreement on the importance of **community-based monitoring** and the necessity of developing monitoring mechanisms that go from the local to the national and global level. It is important for indigenous peoples to continue to develop their own capacity to monitor indicators at the local level, in order to be able to do ‘shadow reporting’ at the national and global level. They can build on various experiences, systems and initiatives on monitoring indicators at the community level that have been developed over the past 15 years (Indigenous Navigator, existing monitoring

processes under the CBD, IPBES, ECLAC, the Arctic Social Indicators, Redd+ indicators, etc).

Where national statistical offices do not yet have the capacity to include an indigenous identifier in general data collection, **sample data can be collected, including through case studies** and community-based participatory approaches¹⁰.

Moreover, consideration could be given to advocating for such indigenous-specific indicators in the work of the UN's specialized agencies. Taking UNICEF as an example, the organization would apply the indigenous-specific indicators relevant to children and maternal mortality etc. Multiple Indicator cluster surveys as well as demographic health surveys of UNICEF should be used beneficially to collect data on indigenous peoples.

Practically speaking, formulating and proposing a number of indigenous-specific indicators is not an effort that is superfluous or “goes to waste”, if, say, only one of two indicators are eventually accepted at the global SDG framework level. The indigenous-specific indicators can and will be used by various actors at various levels.

C. Experiences of data collection with/on/for indigenous peoples

- *How can we ensure data- disaggregation based on ethnicity at the national level?*
- *What are the most useful data-generating methods and mechanisms for indigenous peoples (e.g. administrative data, household surveys, disaggregation, or other means)? Are there any special considerations to bear in mind or methodologies to implement when collecting data on indigenous peoples?*
- *How can we ensure a standardized methodology of data collection, processing and dissemination on a regular basis? What might be the role of non-States actors (e.g. UN system and mechanisms, indigenous organizations, etc.) in collecting and disseminating data? How can these be engaged?*
- *How can we use data collected to assist in the formulation of programmes and policies?*

“Special measures and measurements are needed, if we should not again leave indigenous peoples behind. For proper monitoring, we need disaggregated data and indicators that uphold indigenous peoples’ human rights”.

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz,

¹⁰ See the Indigenous Navigator; a comprehensive framework for community-based monitoring of UNDRIP: www.indigenousnavigator.org

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The very first expert meeting organized under the auspices of the UNPFII was devoted to data collection and disaggregation and brought together Forum members, statisticians, indigenous rights and development experts from States, Indigenous peoples and UN agencies. At the opening of this extraordinary expert meeting in 2004¹¹, the then Officer-in-Charge of the Statistics Division noted that consideration of the issue of Indigenous peoples and data collection was ground-breaking work. The collection of reliable data would allow judgements to be made about the effectiveness of development programmes that had a direct impact on the quality of life of the world's indigenous peoples. Indigenous issues were the important emerging theme in social statistics.

As important as the answers presented were the questions asked to provoke discussion: Who are we collecting data for? How do we collect the data? What should be measured? Who should control information? What is the data for? Why do Indigenous peoples in resource-rich areas experience poor social conditions and the lack of social services? To what degree is remoteness responsible?

After the workshop on data collection and disaggregation, the Permanent Forum decided to organize its work for 2005 and onwards around cross-cutting themes that related directly to the Millennium Development Goals, while considering all the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum. The Forum also decided to give ongoing priority to the cross-cutting issue of data collection and segregation as a follow-up of recommendations by the technical workshop on data collection¹².

From the recommendations of the 2004 UNPFII expert meeting and subsequent experiences, we can glean out some ideas for the way forward today in connection with data collection for the implementation of the SDGs:

(a) Member States should be encouraged and supported if they so request to include questions on indigenous identity with full respect for the principle of self-identification. It is important to develop multiple criteria with local Indigenous peoples' active and meaningful participation accurately to capture identity and socio-economic conditions. It

¹¹ E/C.19/2004/2

¹² See report of the UNPFII at its third session, E/2004/43 E/C.19/2004/23

is desirable to have long-term, standardized data based on this principle.

(b) Data collection concerning Indigenous peoples should follow the principle of free prior and informed consent at all levels and take into account both the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as established by the United Nations Statistical Commission on the basis of the Economic Commission for Europe's Decision C (47) of 1994 and the collective rights of Indigenous peoples.

(c) Data collection should be in accordance with provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with data protection regulations and privacy guarantees including respect for confidentiality.

(d) Indigenous peoples should fully participate as equal partners, in all stages of data collection, including planning, implementation, analysis and dissemination, access and return, with appropriate resourcing and capacity-building to do so. Data collection must respond to the priorities and aims of the indigenous peoples themselves. Participation of indigenous peoples in the conceptualization, implementation, reporting, analysis and dissemination of data collected is crucial, at both the country and international levels. Indigenous peoples should be trained and employed by data-collection institutions at the national and international levels. The process of data collection is critical for the empowerment of the communities and for identifying their needs. Indigenous peoples should have the right to have data (primary and aggregated) returned to them, for their own use, noting the importance of the confidentiality of such data, particularly as it applies to individuals who have participated. In conducting data-collection exercises, Governments should involve Indigenous peoples from the earliest stages (planning and community education) and ensure ongoing partnerships in collecting, analysing and disseminating data.

(e) Data collection exercises should be conducted in local indigenous languages to the extent possible and, where no written language exists, should employ local Indigenous peoples (as translators/interpreters as well as advisors) to assist in the collection process.

(f) Both quantitative and qualitative data should be used and combined to provide a holistic picture of the indigenous situation.

(g) The primary responsibility for ensuring data collection lies with Governments.

(h) Civil and vital registration systems should be explored as additional sources of statistics on Indigenous peoples.

(i) For international organizations, data collection should be mainstreamed. It should aim

at the implementation of Agenda 2030, of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document and related policies. It should also be used to assess the impact of development assistance and to promote social dialogue at the national level.

It is also recommended that: (i) The national human development reports, produced through nationally-owned, editorially independent processes, could systematically include case studies, and should include disaggregated data on indigenous and tribal peoples; and (ii) that participatory poverty assessments of the World Bank could collect and disaggregate data on the poverty situation of Indigenous peoples in all its dimensions, including those defined by Indigenous peoples themselves.

A source of data to be explored is the material collected by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes while carrying out development projects. Such material is rarely centralized or publicly available. Agencies should be encouraged, during their development projects and other activities, to collect data in a way that will make them easier to share and publicize. **This element should also become part of the System-Wide Plan of Action called for by the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.**

It is recommended that intergovernmental organizations, funds and programmes launch a coordinated data collection exercise in one or more countries, with the aim of developing a common approach and of maximizing the impact of development assistance concerning indigenous and tribal communities and peoples.

(j) In analysing data, the full diversity and demographic profile of indigenous peoples' communities should be taken into account, including gender, children, youth and aged persons, as well as people with disabilities.

(k) In data collection methods and analysis, it should be borne in mind that indigenous peoples live not only in remote and rural areas but also in urban areas and in a wide variety of situations in various countries, and that these peoples are often divided by national borders. Moreover, it should be taken into account that they are increasingly migrating across borders as the result of globalization and conflict and this reality needs to be reflected in data questions, methods and analysis.

(l) In conducting all relevant data collection exercises, Governments should include indicators to capture the full ethnic and cultural diversity of specific regions to allow the context of the local indigenous peoples to be fully revealed.

(m) The data collected should be specific to the situation of Indigenous and tribal peoples, while also allowing comparability with other national and international populations.

- (n) Collaboration between national, regional and international data-collecting bodies is strongly recommended to advance this issue at the global level.
- (o) Indigenous controlled statistics initiatives are encouraged to work as part of the whole data collection system at the national level to ensure that data collection systems do not become disjointed or possibly lead to the fragmentation of national systems.
- (p) Data collection should include (but not be limited to): (i) Capturing the statistics of nomadic, semi-nomadic and migrating peoples and peoples in transition, as well as displaced persons; (ii) Capturing information on particularly vulnerable sections of indigenous and tribal peoples.
- (q) Policy makers and those designing data collection exercises should be sensitized and trained regarding the nature of the populations being surveyed and the purposes for which data is being sought.
- (r) There is an immense amount of data already in existence in national surveys, research institutions, scientific publications and, in particular, data generated by indigenous organizations and communities. It is recommended that as part of the next steps in this process: (i) Underused sources of statistics at the national level be fully exploited; **(ii) an appropriate institution to conduct a literature watch to capture existing data in scientific reviews and elsewhere relevant to indigenous peoples and that it also examine the feasibility of identifying an institution to serve as a clearing house for all existing data on indigenous issues;** (iii) **Indigenous institutions and organizations be encouraged to generate relevant data and to coordinate their activities in this field and in partnership with Governments to the extent possible.**

The work conducted by DESA's Statistics Division is indeed crucial and can be useful for the challenges that data collection poses with regard to Indigenous peoples. As indicated in DESA's report to the UNPFII at its eighth session in 2009, when DESA held a public dialogue with the Permanent Forum¹³, the Statistics Division incorporates the indigenous population dimension in all of the aspects of official statistics at the national and international levels, emphasizing the need to capture and disseminate data pertaining to these population groups. More specifically, the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2,

¹³ E/C.19/2009/3/Add.4, paras. 76-81. As indicated in the report, the mandate of the Statistics Division may be summarized into four main areas: developing international statistical standards and methodological guidelines; collecting and disseminating internationally comparable statistics; providing support to national statistical agencies in terms of improving statistical capacity; and servicing the United Nations Statistical Commission as the apex of the international statistical system.

elaborates in detail the need to disaggregate statistics on the basis of ethnocultural characteristics, especially with respect to indigenous peoples.

Despite the fact that ethnicity is not a core topic in many national population and housing censuses, the Statistics Division, as part of its series of special topics, collected, processed and disseminated data on ethnocultural characteristics as available in the 2000 census round. This collection is available at the Statistics Division website and it is complemented by the set of actual questions that were used in national censuses to capture these categories.

-What mechanisms can we propose for the effective participation of Indigenous peoples at the subnational and national level in the preparation of reports on the SDGs. What approaches may be developed for countries where indigenous peoples are not formally recognized as such?

Over the years, UN agencies and Indigenous peoples have had experiences of partnerships around programs and projects. Some good examples have been documented by SPFII in cooperation with agencies and appear on the website of SPFII under “Library and Documents”. The many encouraging cases documented demonstrate that the UNDRIP’s normative framework and the policies of UN bodies, including the Outcome Document of the WCIP adopted by the General Assembly in 2014, have been making a difference and that, slowly but surely, the motto of the Second Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples , “Partnership in Action”, is slowly being heeded.

In a most recent publication prepared by SPFII in cooperation with IFAD and entitled “Partnering with Indigenous Peoples: Experiences and Practices” it is stated that the **minimum essential criteria of a good practice, as identified in the publication¹⁴, reflect the following elements:**

Indigenous peoples are acknowledged as rights holders and programmatic strategies prioritize the importance of free, prior and informed consent; Indigenous peoples are recognized as key decision makers and as experts in matters that affect them; Emphasis is placed on the full and effective engagement and participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the programme; Strong partnerships are established between UN agencies (or through the UN Country Teams) with local

¹⁴<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/LibraryDocuments/partnering-with-ips.pdf>, accessed 10 October 2015. See also [Indigenous Women and the UN System](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/publications/Indigenous/indwomen07.htm), another collection of promising practices, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/publications/Indigenous/indwomen07.htm>, accessed 10 October 2015.

institutions, Member States, and Indigenous peoples; and a culturally sensitive approach to programming, including an understanding of norms and practices of indigenous cultures is incorporated into policy and programme design and implementation.

The projects also provide compelling evidence that the success of UN project and programmes depends on indigenous peoples' role and engagement in the process. This should build on the principles of the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure that Indigenous peoples actively participate in UN programmes at all levels including as: implementing partners; project or activity coordinators, facilitators etc; experts, advisors and resource persons; programme or project committees; and monitors and evaluators.

The lessons learnt from this rich practice of UN bodies and agencies can be a useful example for States as well. The Plan of Action of the UNDG to promote the implementation of the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and the SWAP under preparation following the WCIP can be a useful vehicles to promote these lessons learnt.

It is known that some States do not formally recognize Indigenous peoples, or do not recognize them under this terminology. The term "indigenous" has prevailed as a general or generic term. In some countries, there may be preference for terms other than "indigenous peoples". There are some local terms (such as tribes, first peoples, aboriginals, ethnic groups, *adivasi*, *janajati*) or occupational and geographical (hunter-gatherers, nomads, peasants, hill people, rural populations etc.) that, for all practical purposes, can be used interchangeably with "indigenous peoples".

In many cases, the notion of being indigenous has pejorative connotations and some people may choose not to reveal or redefine their origin. External actors must respect such choices, while at the same time working against the discrimination of Indigenous peoples.

The most fruitful approach is to identify, rather than define, Indigenous peoples in a specific context and most importantly based on the fundamental criterion of self-identification as underlined in a number of human rights documents.

The heart of the matter in the implementation of Agenda 2030 is that "nobody should be left behind" and therefore all efforts should be made on the part of States, in cooperation with agencies, to address the substance of Indigenous peoples'

challenges by showing the requisite political will, despite terminologies. The UN agencies should be facilitating this in all ways possible.